AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

ISSN 0712-7774

CEREBUS

67
OCT

2.00 CANADA
1.70 IN U.S.

DAY OF GREATNESS

AGE OF CONSENT

PHOTO BY EVAN KATTEN

A Note from the Publisher

This month I took a little trip to New York City for an establishing meeting of a Comic Publishers Association. This association has been a pet project of mine ever since my return from the San Diego Trade Show and Comic Convention. So many shop owners, distributors and fans had talked to me about the need for more information on what publishers are doing, as well as a need for better promotion of comics as a whole that I began asking some questions.

I was encouraged by the interest other publishers showed in forming an association to help us organize these objectives. Of course- having the meeting in New York City didn't hurt any. I always love an excuse to go and explore parts of that city, as well as visit those friends I've made over the years that live out that way, like Bob Greenburger, Mary Wilshire, Chris Claremont and Marshall Rogers. Although it poured the Saturday of the meeting,(and I ended up walking around in the rain, trying to remember where the DC offices were) we had good representation at the meeting. It took three hours to hammer out our objectives, statement of purpose, set up initial structuring, and of course, give the organization a name: the Association of Comic Art Publishers. It has a nice ring to it, don't you think? Where we go from here, who knows. But it's a start. After the meeting we continued the discussion at (what else?) a chinese restaurant. But then, they always say more business happens at restaurants than meeting rooms. The next day, Sunday, I was visiting the Greenburgers out at Long Island. They are really nice folks who have a lovely home. Bob and Debbie sent me off on the Long Island Railroad, and forgot to tell me to change trains. It's OK though. I only landed in Brooklyn; it could have been worse. At least I know how to get out of Brooklyn! I had a very charming host during my stay in Manhattan, but he's the shy type so I'll just say "Thanks," and leave it at that.

All in all, it was a fun trip, but it was nice to be home again. I must admit the summer cons tend to leave me "travelled out" in the fall. By spring, though, I'm usually itching to go somewhere.

The new 3D Book is gradually coming together. I've seen Valentino's and Dave's story so far, and they look great! The cover is being passed from artist to artist and is out in courier-land somewhere. I should have more news on that next month.

Finally, I had an early birthday present last week-end. In Toronto, the Wizard of Oz was playing at a small Film Festival theatre. This is my favorite film and I never tire of seeing it on TV, but to finally see it the way it was meant to be seen, on a big screen, was wonderful! The whole theatre laughed with the scarecrow and got REAL quiet when Dorothy gets abducted by the wicked witch; and EVERYONE applauded at the end of the film. I cried when she sat on the bed saying "Oh Auntie Em! There's no place like home!" How true! See you again next month.

Deni

CEREBUS

VOL. 1 NO. 67 OCT. 1984

President: Dave Sim

Publisher: Deni Loubert

Assistant to the Publisher:
Karen McKiel

Cover Separations
Mark Spencer

Circulation: 21,000

Distributors:
Bud Plant Inc.
P.O. Box 1886
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Glenwood Distribution
124 Vandalia St.
Collinsville, IL 62234

Capital City Distributors
2827 Perry Street
Madison, WI 53713

Diamond Comics
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Now & Then Books
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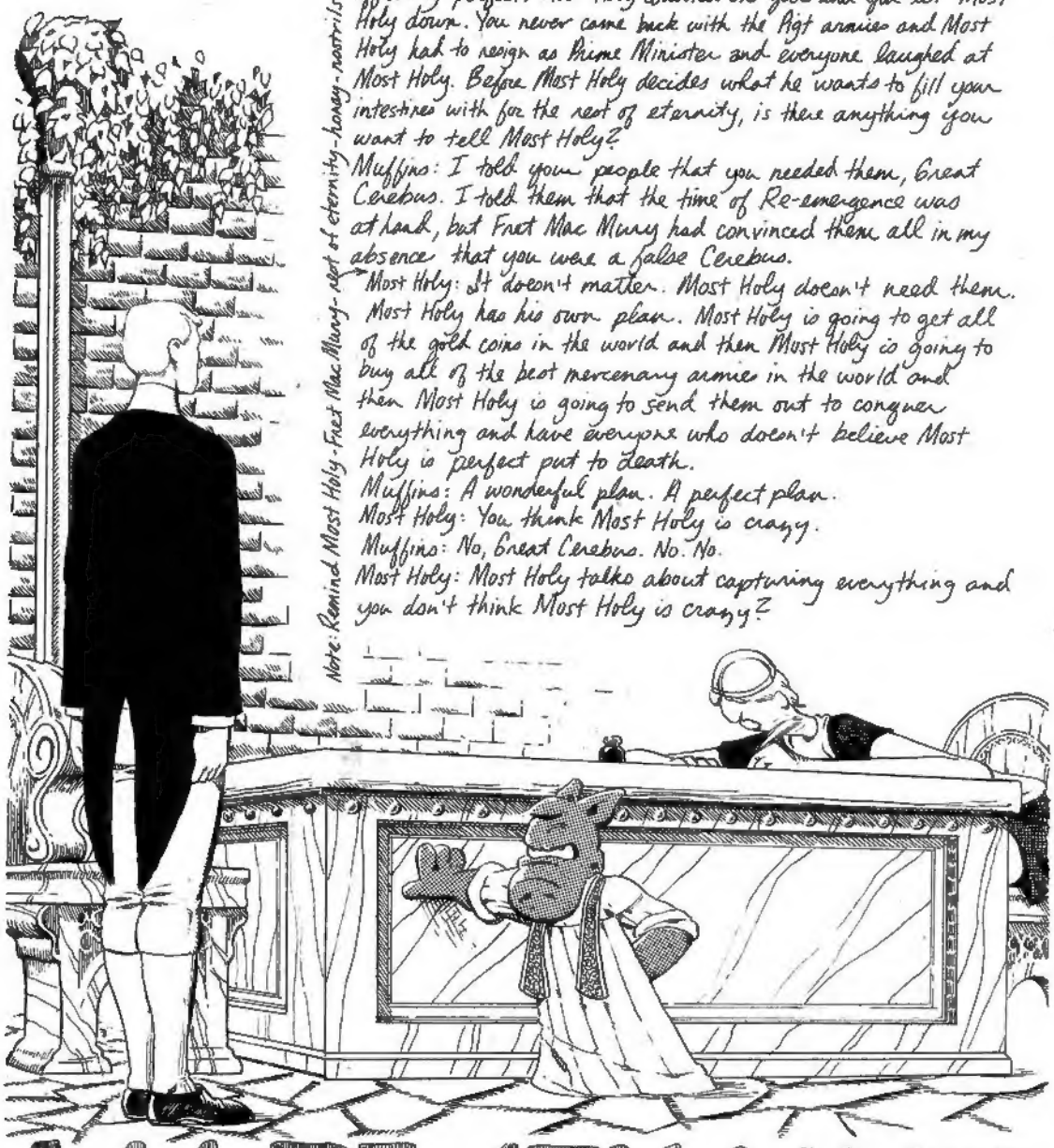
Andromeda Publications
367 Queen St. W.
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
M5V 2A4

Titan Distributors
P.O. Box 250
London, E3 4RT England

CEREBUS THE AARDVARK is published fifteen times a year by Aardvark-Vanaheim Inc., P.O. Box 1674 Station 'C', Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2G 4R2, including three "Swords of Cerebus" in winter, spring and fall. All contents © 1984 Dave Sim. Any inquiries regarding use of the characters, images, or situations depicted should be addressed to Deni Sim. No unauthorized reproduction allowed except for review or other Journalistic purpose. Advertising rates furnished on request. Printed in Canada by Preney Print and Litho Inc., Windsor, Ontario.

DAY OF GREATNESS



Note: Remind Most Holy - Fnet Mac Muny - rent of eternity - honey - nostrils - soldier ants

betrayed Most Holy back in the days when Most Holy wasn't yet officially perfect. Most Holy counted on you and you let Most Holy down. You never came back with the fight armies and Most Holy had to resign as Prime Minister and everyone laughed at Most Holy. Before Most Holy decides what he wants to fill your intestines with for the rest of eternity, is there anything you want to tell Most Holy?

Muffins: I told your people that you needed them, Great Cerebus. I told them that the time of Re-emergence was at hand, but Fnet Mac Muny had convinced them all in my absence that you were a false Cerebus.

Most Holy: It doesn't matter. Most Holy doesn't need them. Most Holy has his own plan. Most Holy is going to get all of the gold coins in the world and then Most Holy is going to buy all of the best mercenary armies in the world and then Most Holy is going to send them out to conquer everything and have everyone who doesn't believe Most Holy is perfect put to death.

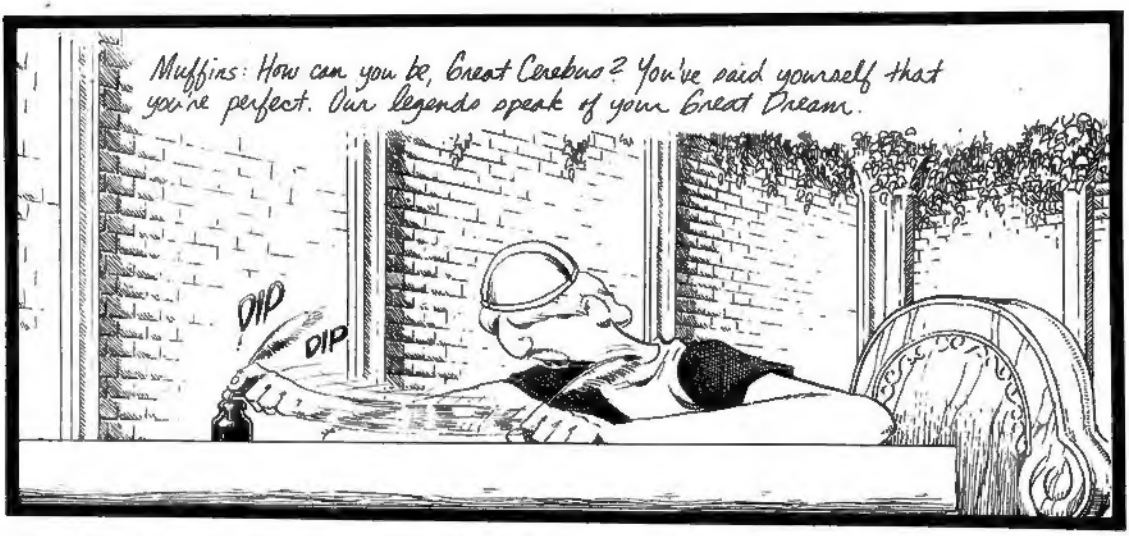
Muffins: A wonderful plan. A perfect plan.

Most Holy: You think Most Holy is crazy.

Muffins: No, Great Cerebus. No. No.

Most Holy: Most Holy talks about capturing everything and you don't think Most Holy is crazy?

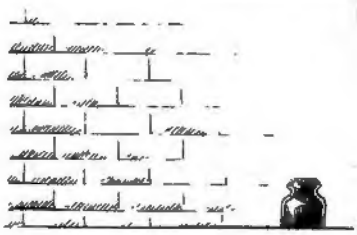
AGE OF CONSENT

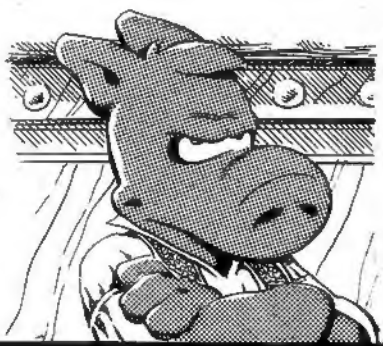

Muffins: How can you be, Great Cerebus? You've said yourself that you're perfect. Our legends speak of your Great Dream.
DIP
DIP

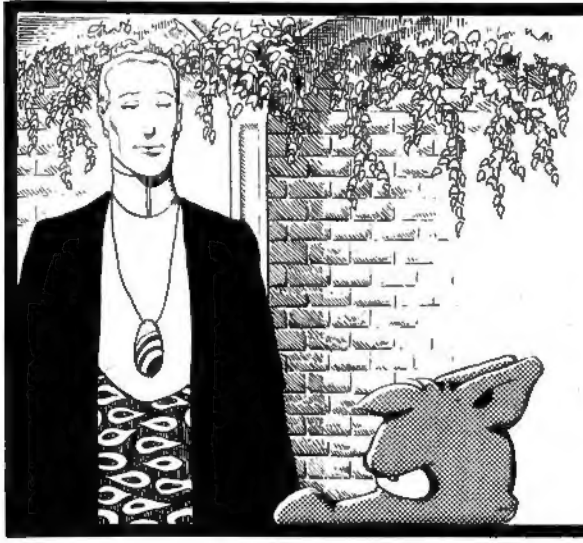
Most Holy: Cerebus had a dream last night. Cerebus was flying over this body of water and there were these doors all around him, just sort of floating above the water. Up ahead, Cerebus could see this stone column sticking up out of the water and Cerebus flew toward it. When Cerebus got to it, the water had risen almost to the top. There was this stone post and on the post was a box and in the box was a crown. Cerebus tried to grab the crown but a gust of wind came up and blew Cerebus away. Then Cerebus was blown against this big glass door and it broke and Cerebus was stuck. Then the glass door started floating back towards the stone column which turned into a statue of Cerebus. Cerebus kept trying to get out, but he was stuck. As Cerebus got closer to the statue, it started to crumble to pieces. Cerebus thought he was either going to be crushed by one of the falling chunks or squeezed against the statue's forehead.

Muffins: And what happened, Great Cerebus?

Most Holy: Cerebus woke up with a craving for raw potatoes and onion soup.







Muffins: It's a wonderful dream; a perfect dream.

Most Holy: Most Holy was just testing you when he asked if you thought he was crazy.

Muffins: Of course, Great Cerebus.

Most Holy: Most Holy would've had your head cut off and made into a footstool if you had said he was.

Muffins: I understand, Great Cerebus.

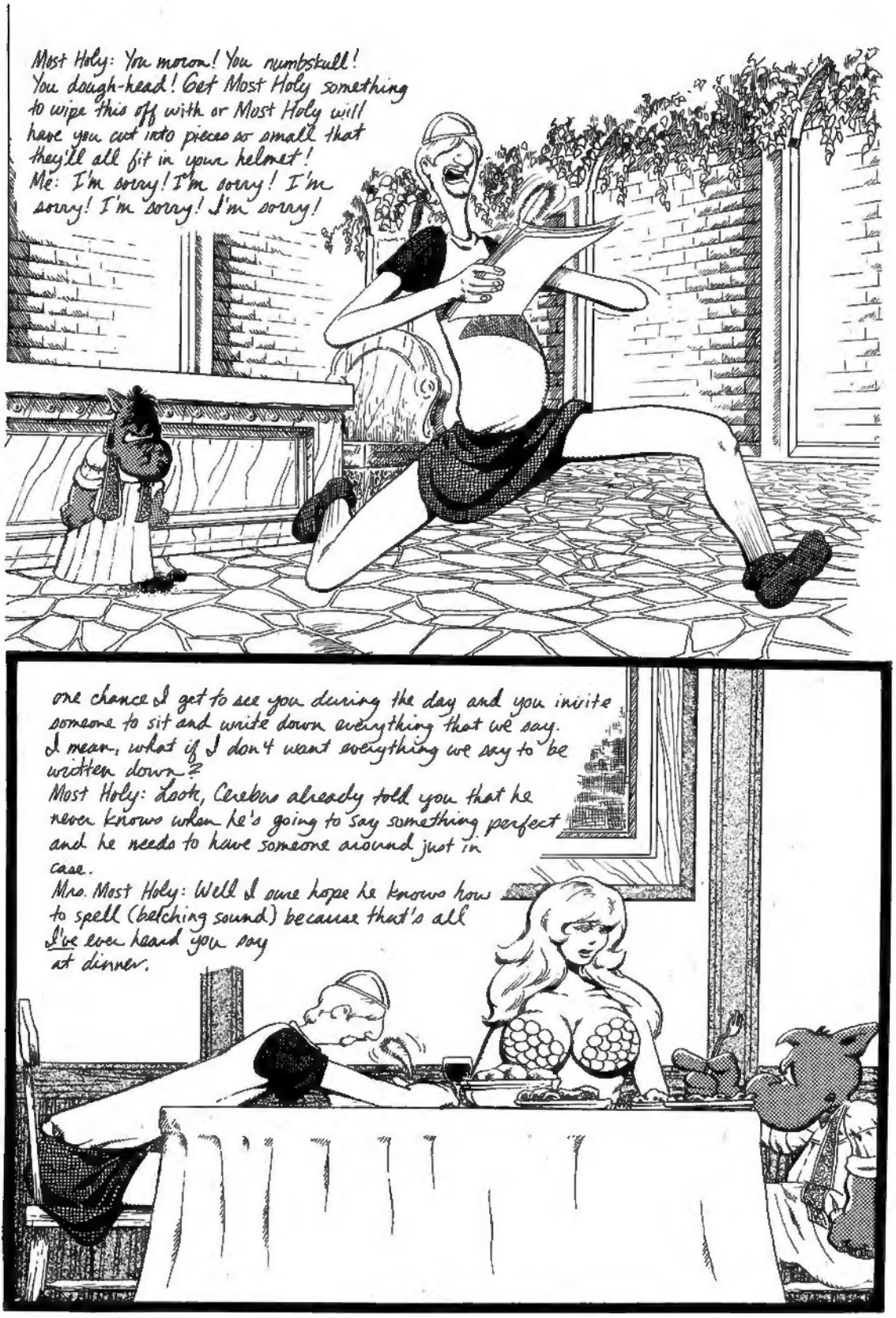
Most Holy: Most Holy doesn't want to talk to you anymore, so go away. If Most Holy wants to talk to you again, Most Holy will send Bear to get you.

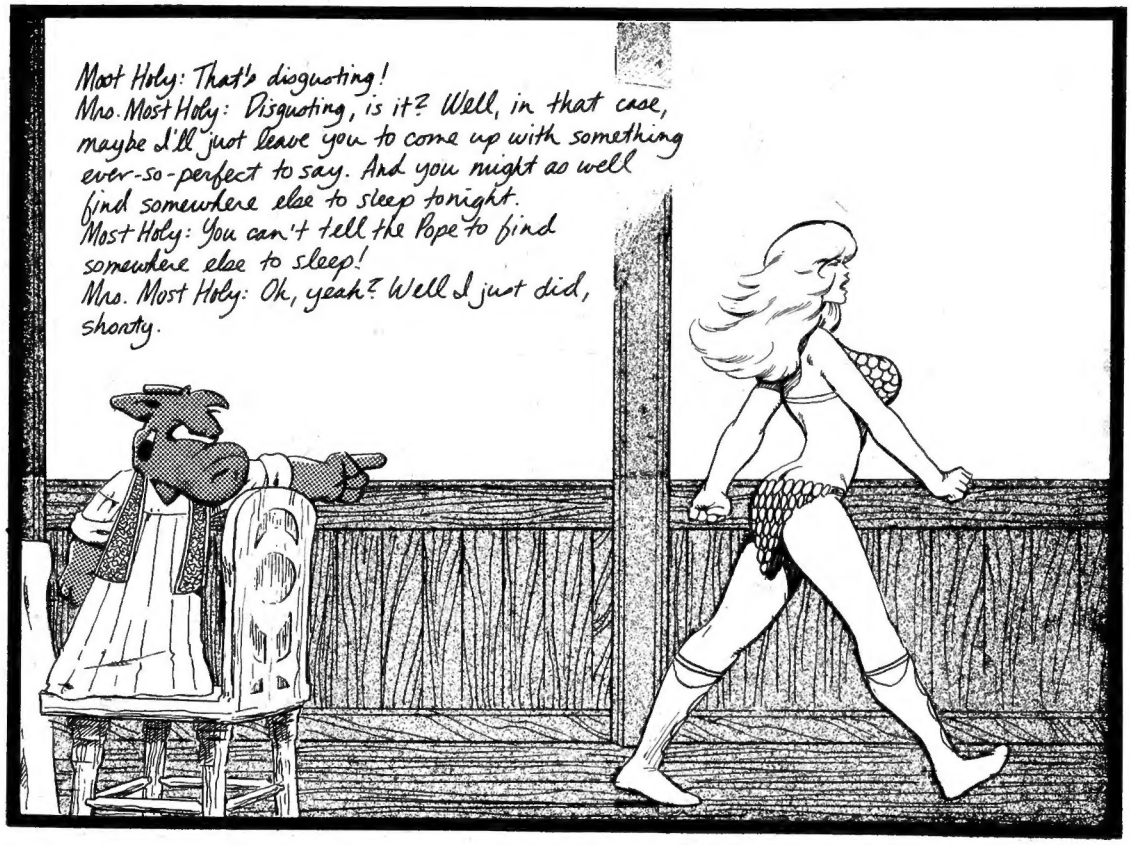
Muffino: Yes, Great Cerebus, and what do you wish me to do while I am gone?
Most Holy: Nothing. Just sit in a chair somewhere. You can breathe if you have to.
Muffino: "And his mercy will nokrow no bounds"

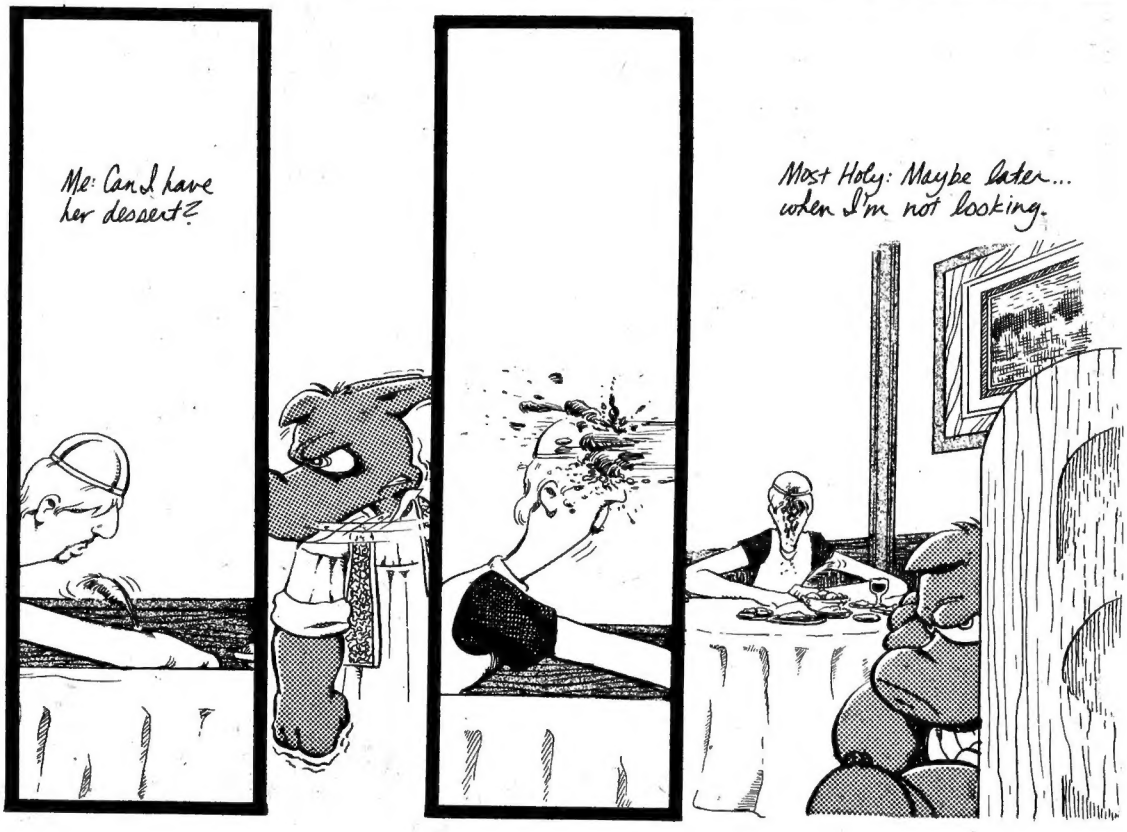
Bear: What's Boobah doing?
Most Holy: Most Holy never knows when he's going to say something perfect, so Most Holy is having Boobah write down all of Most Holy's conversations. It will help when future generations want to know how perfect Most Holy was.

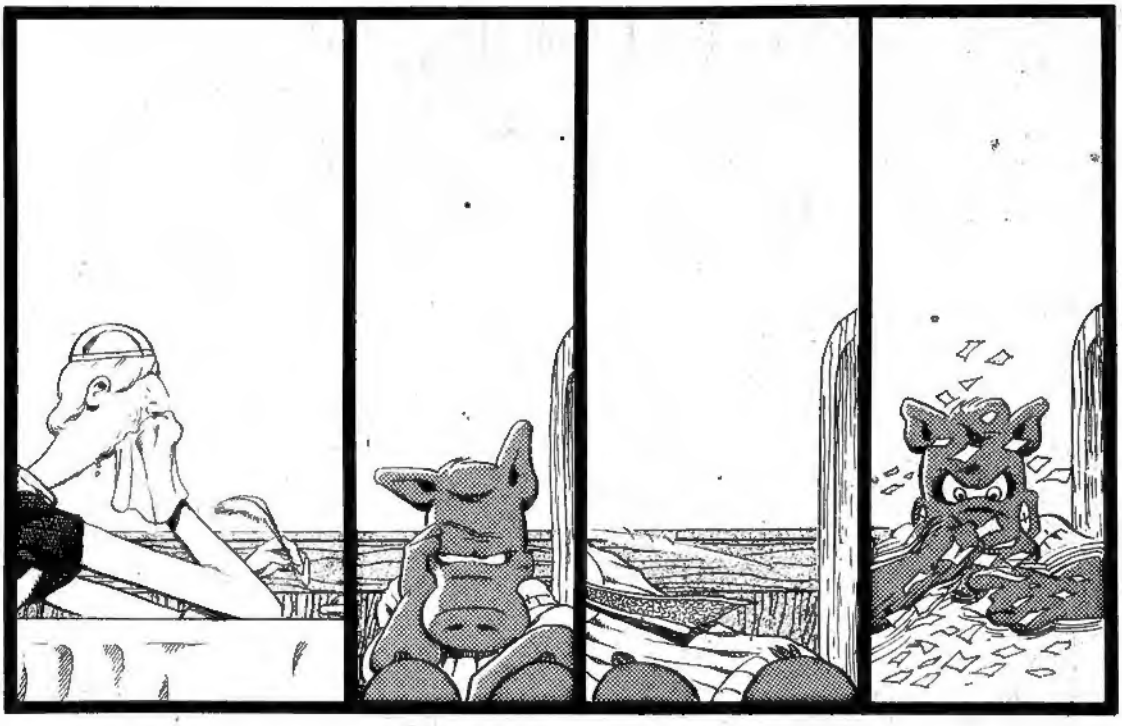
...Besides it seemed like the easiest way to keep Boobah out of

BUMP

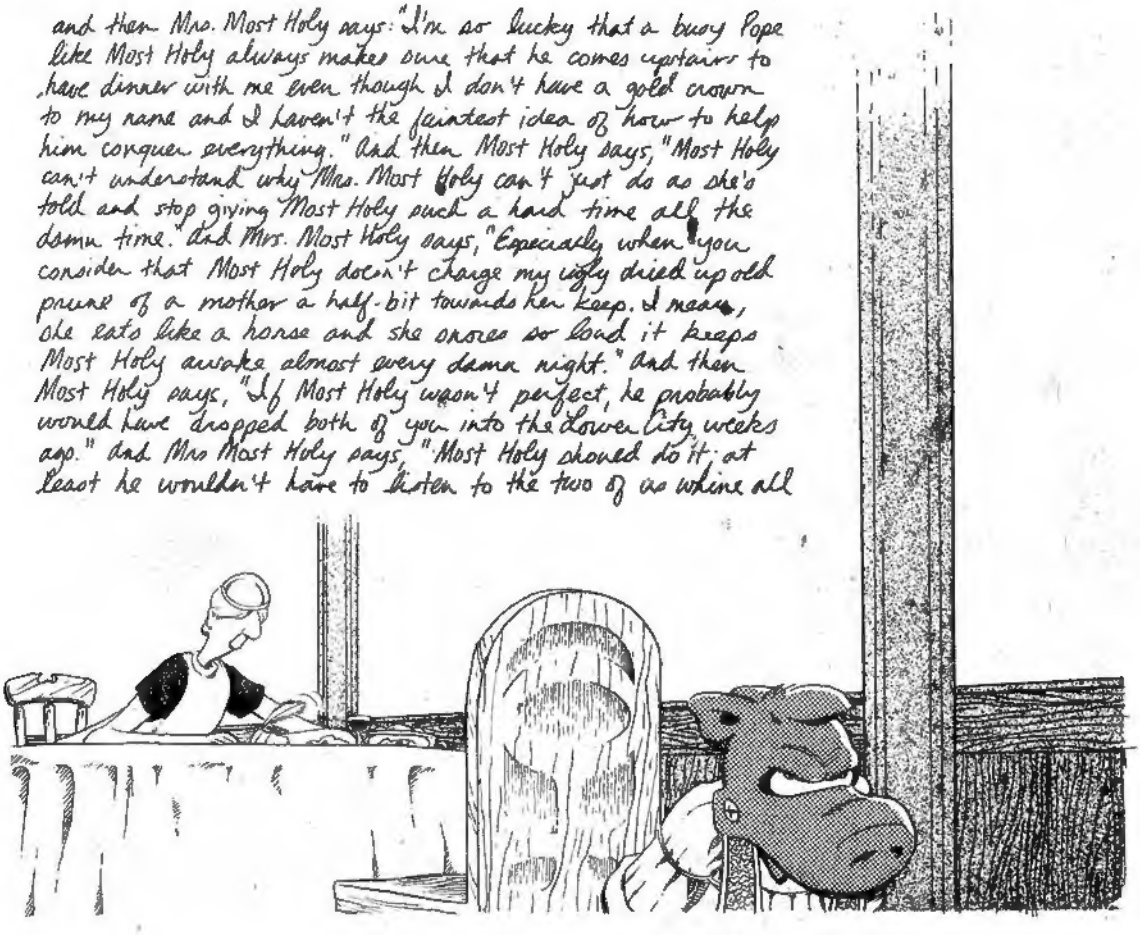

Most Holy: You moron! You numbskull! You dough-head! Get Most Holy something to wipe this off with or Most Holy will have you cut into pieces so small that they'll all fit in your helmet!
Me: I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I'm sorry!
one chance I get to see you during the day and you invite someone to sit and write down everything that we say. I mean, what if I don't want everything we say to be written down?
Most Holy: Look, Cerebus already told you that he never knows when he's going to say something perfect and he needs to have someone around just in case.
Mrs. Most Holy: Well I sure hope he knows how to spell (belching sound) because that's all I've ever heard you say at dinner.

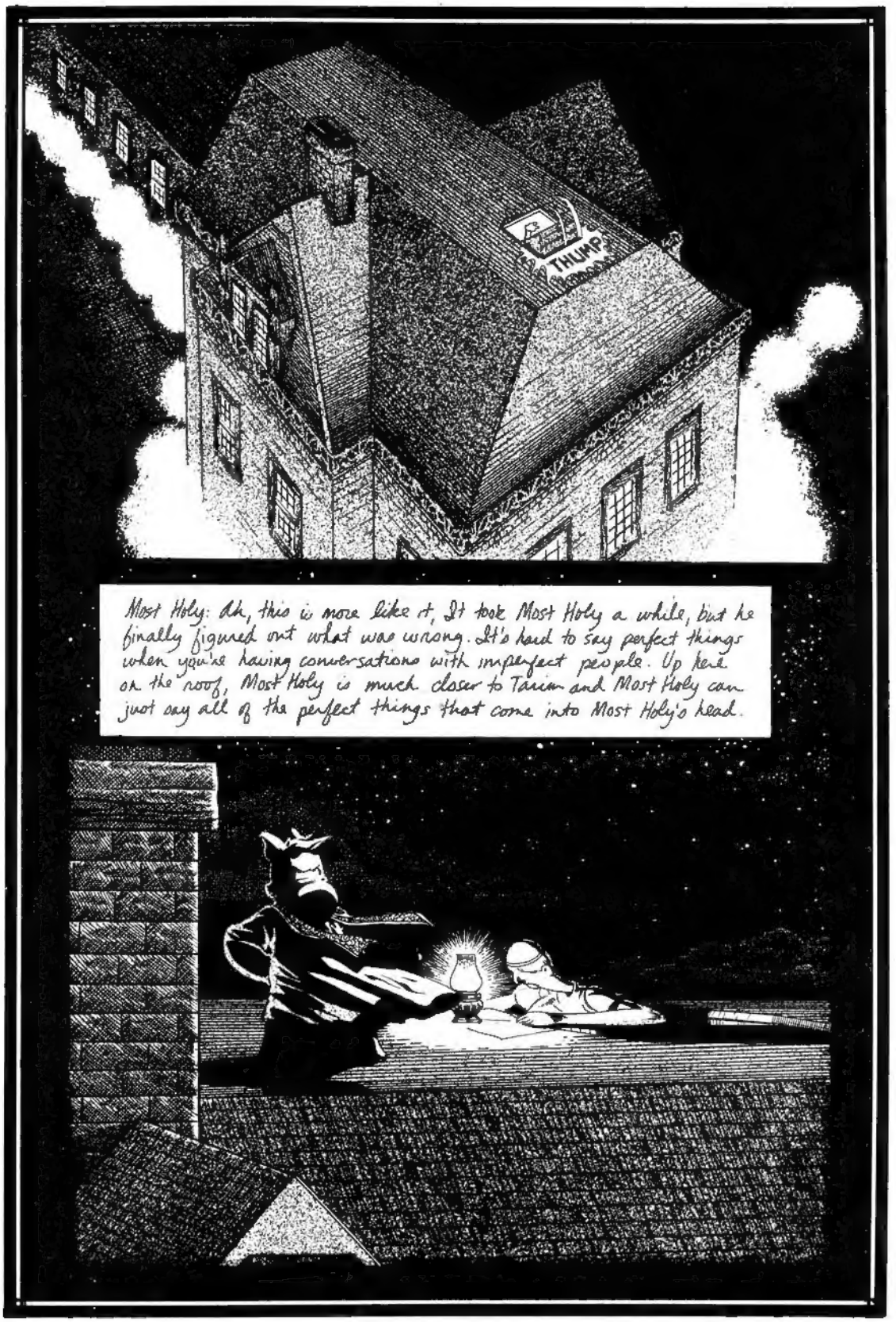

Most Holy: That's disgusting!
Mrs. Most Holy: Disgusting, is it? Well, in that case, maybe I'll just leave you to come up with something ever-so-perfect to say. And you might as well find somewhere else to sleep tonight.
Most Holy: You can't tell the Pope to find somewhere else to sleep!
Mrs. Most Holy: Oh, yeah? Well I just did, shorty.


Me: Can I have her dessert?
Most Holy: Maybe later... when I'm not looking.

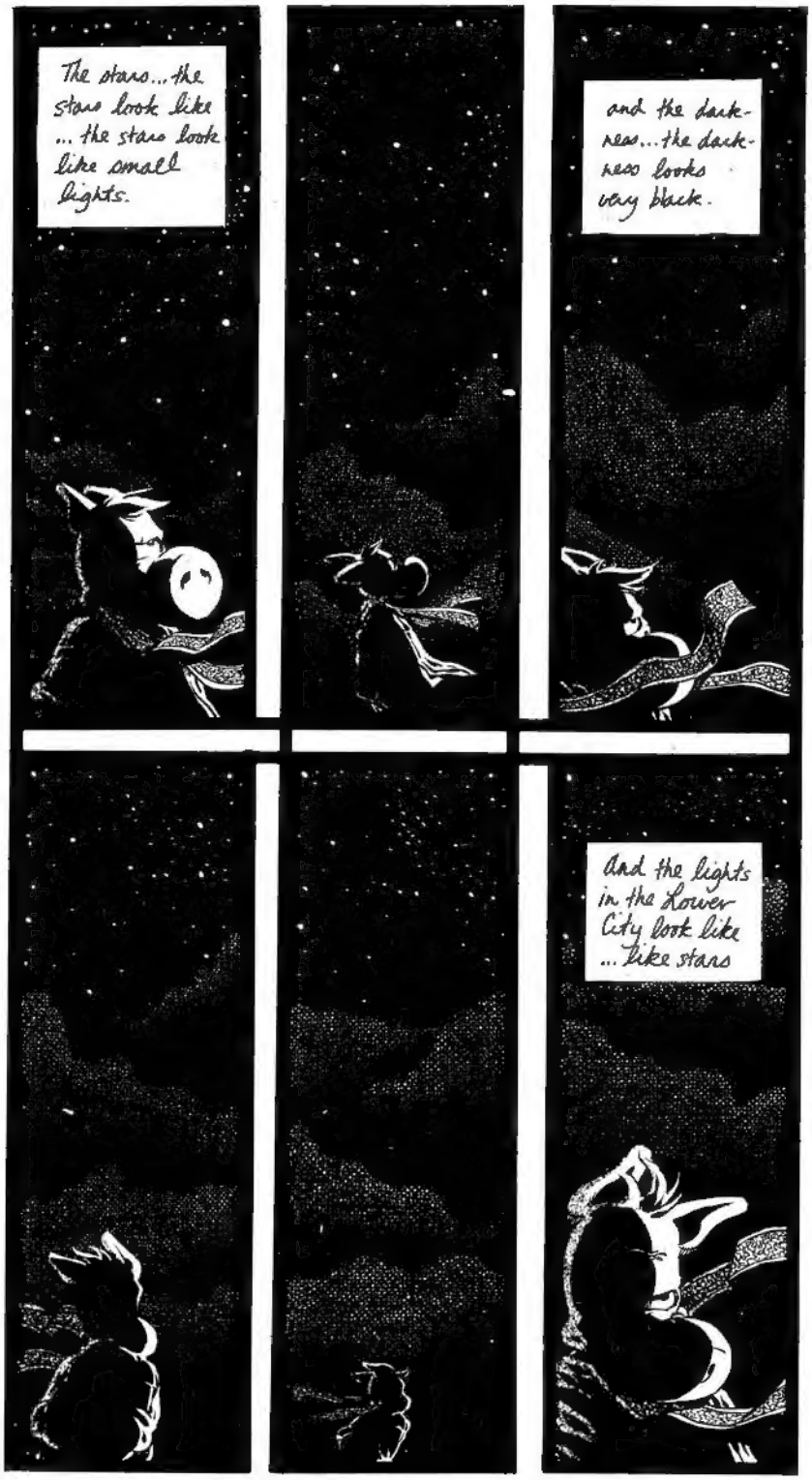


and then Mrs. Most Holy says: "I'm so lucky that a busy Pope like Most Holy always makes sure that he comes upstairs to have dinner with me even though I don't have a gold crown to my name and I haven't the faintest idea of how to help him conquer everything." And then Most Holy says, "Most Holy can't understand why Mrs. Most Holy can't just do as she's told and stop giving Most Holy such a hard time all the damn time." And Mrs. Most Holy says, "Especially when you consider that Most Holy doesn't charge my ugly dried up old prune of a mother a half-bit towards her keep. I mean, she eats like a horse and she snores so loud it keeps Most Holy awake almost every damn night." And then Most Holy says, "If Most Holy wasn't perfect, he probably would have dropped both of you into the Lower City weeks ago." And Mrs Most Holy says, "Most Holy should do it: at least he wouldn't have to listen to the two of us whine all





Most Holy: Ah, this is more like it. It took Most Holy a while, but he finally figured out what was wrong. It's hard to say perfect things when you're having conversations with imperfect people. Up here on the roof, Most Holy is much closer to Tarzan and Most Holy can just say all of the perfect things that come into Most Holy's head.

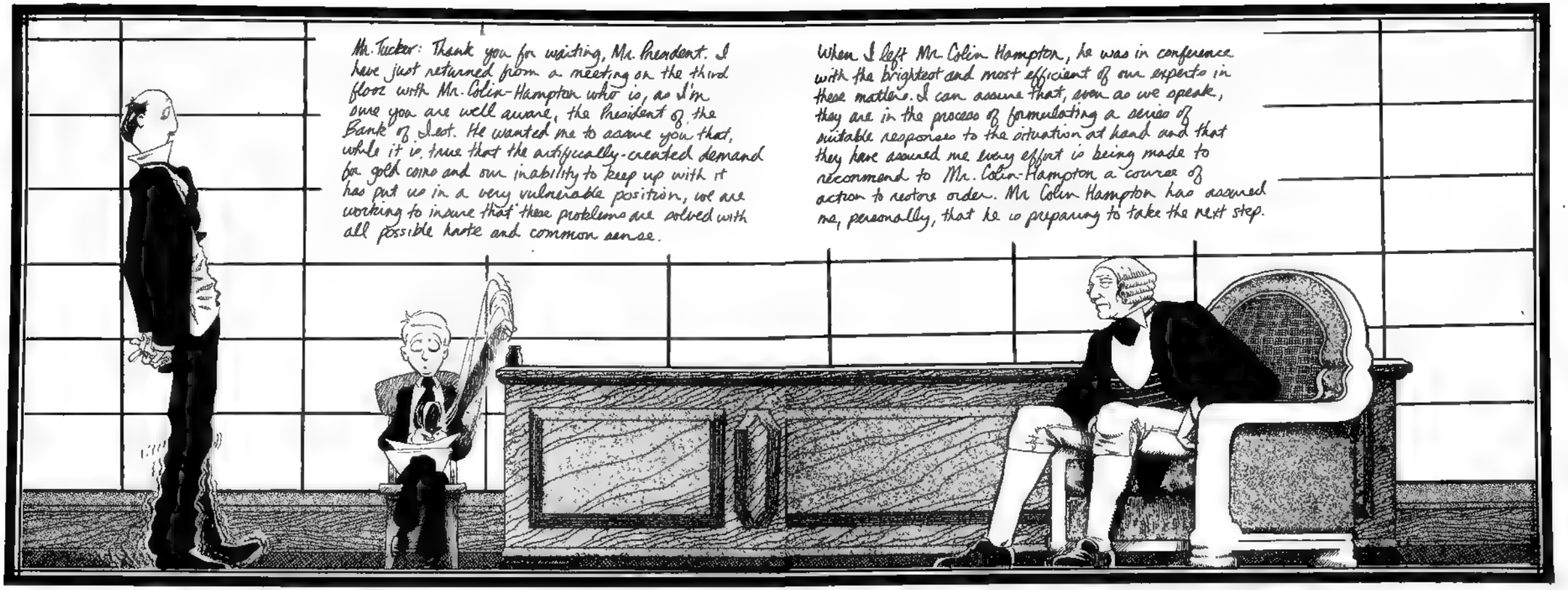

The stars... the stars look like ... the stars look like small lights.
and the darkness... the darkness looks very black.
And the lights in the Lower City look like ... like stars

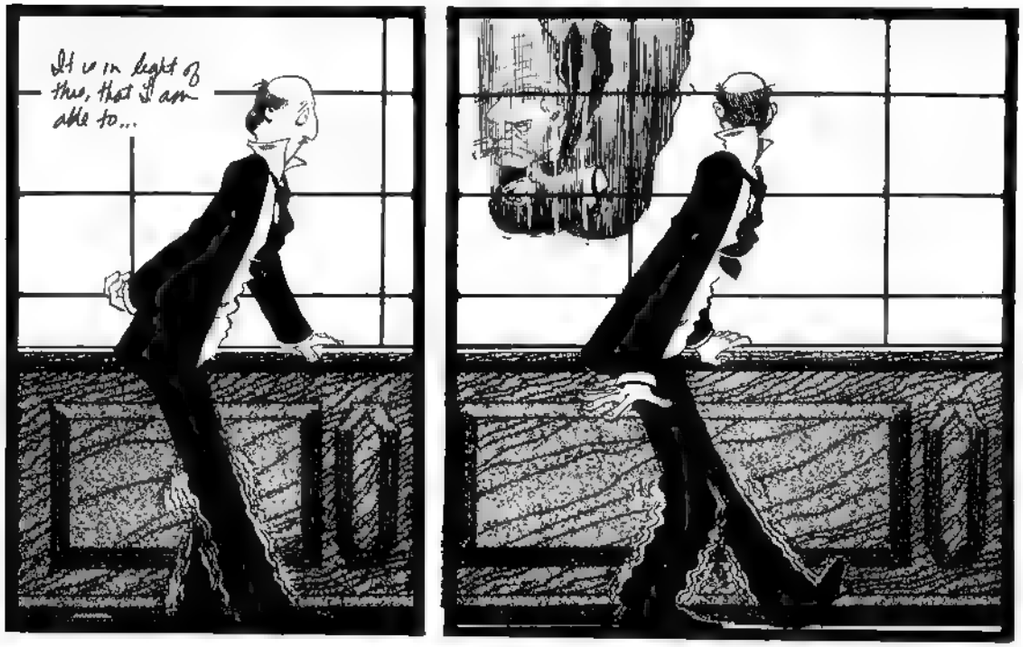
Most Holy has a feeling, Boobah, that Tarim wants to talk to Most Holy tonight. You must write down whatever Tarim says, because, in his own way, he is almost as important as Most Holy
Tarim: Knak thakka-Ka Toom. Boom a Boom
Tarim: Pitta Pat Patta-Patta-Pit Pit-Patta Patta

I TOLD YOU IT WAS A MISTAKE- COUNTING ON WEISSHAUPT TO KEEP CONTROL
I KNEW HE WOULD UNDERESTIMATE CEREBUS SOONER OR LATER AND NOW HE HAS...
CEREBUS HAS A ONE-TRACK MIND
WE CAN EXPECT A PAPAL CRUSADE TO BE LAUNCHED AGAINST THE SEPRAN EMPIRE ANY TIME NOW..

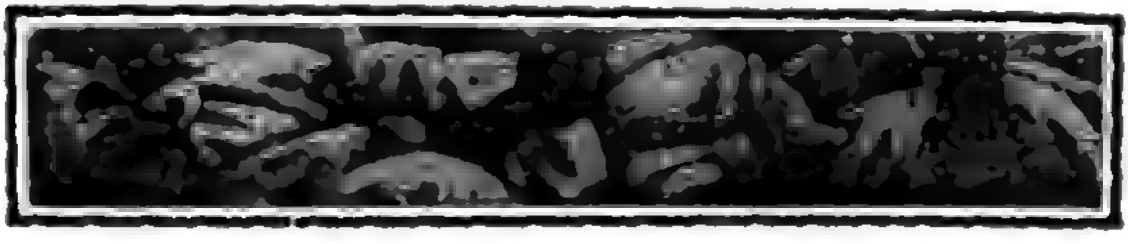
WE HAVE DONE ALL THAT WE CAN--WE MUST TRUST TO THE GREAT MOTHER TO DELIVER US
ON THE CONTRARY, WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING BUT SIT ON OUR HANDS-- YOU COULD HAVE USED YOUR INFLUENCE WITH CIRIN
WE COULD'VE NIPPED THIS UNITED FELDWAR STATES THING IN THE BUD
BUT YOU SAW A CHANCE TO UNDERMINE CIRIN-- A CHANCE TO BE WEISSHAUPT'S
AS USUAL YOU EXAGGERATE TERRIBLY, ASTORIA. WE HAVE ALWAYS SETTLED OUR OWN AFFAIRS IN JEST

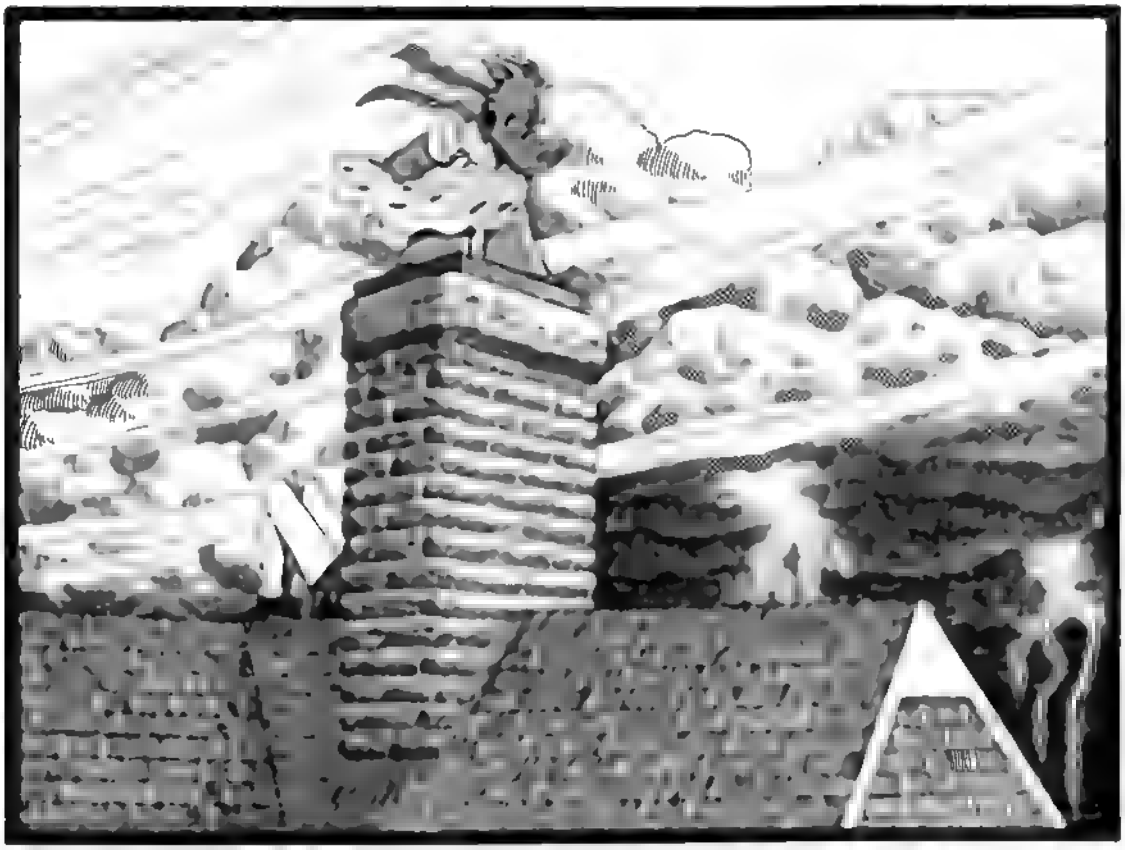
YOU'VE GOT A POPE FROM TERIM-ONLY-KNOWS-WHERE IN THE NORTH, NO PRIME MINISTER, AN OCCUPYING FORCE OF SEPRANS AND A PRESIDENT FROM LOWER FELDA..
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL SETTLING YOUR OWN AFFAIRS IN TEST..
AND, INSTEAD, I SUPPOSE YOU THINK WE SHOULD HAND EVERYTHING OVER TO YOU, AGAIN..
. YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE, ASTORIA IN FACT, YOU HAVE HAD SEVERAL CHANCES
AND I CAME CLOSER TO LEGITIMIZING CIRIN'S CAUSE IN THIS CITY-STATE THAN THE LAST THREE RESIDENTS OF GOODABBEY PUT TOGETHER
THAT YOU DID THAT YOU DID
AMID GREAT ASSURANCES, AS I RECALL, THAT THE AARDVARK COULDN'T-- HOW DID YOU PUT IT? COULDN'T TAKE A BREATH WITHOUT CONSULTING YOU
IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE PRESIDENT WASN'T ALONE IN UNDERESTIMATING OUR LITTLE GREY FRIEND..
WOULDN'T YOU SAY? HMM?


Mr. Tucker: Thank you for waiting, Mr. President. I have just returned from a meeting on the third floor with Mr. Colin-Hampton who is, as I'm sure you are well aware, the President of the Bank of Zest. He wanted me to assure you that, while it is true that the artificially-created demand for gold coins and our inability to keep up with it has put us in a very vulnerable position, we are working to insure that these problems are solved with all possible haste and common sense.
When I left Mr. Colin Hampton, he was in conference with the brightest and most efficient of our experts in these matters. I can assure that, even as we speak, they are in the process of formulating a series of suitable responses to the situation at hand and that they have assured me every effort is being made to recommend to Mr. Colin-Hampton a course of action to restore order. Mr Colin Hampton has assured me, personally, that he is preparing to take the next step.


It is in light of this, that I am able to...

WHUMP
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, MR. TUCKER. IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE SOME THINGS TO MOVE ...



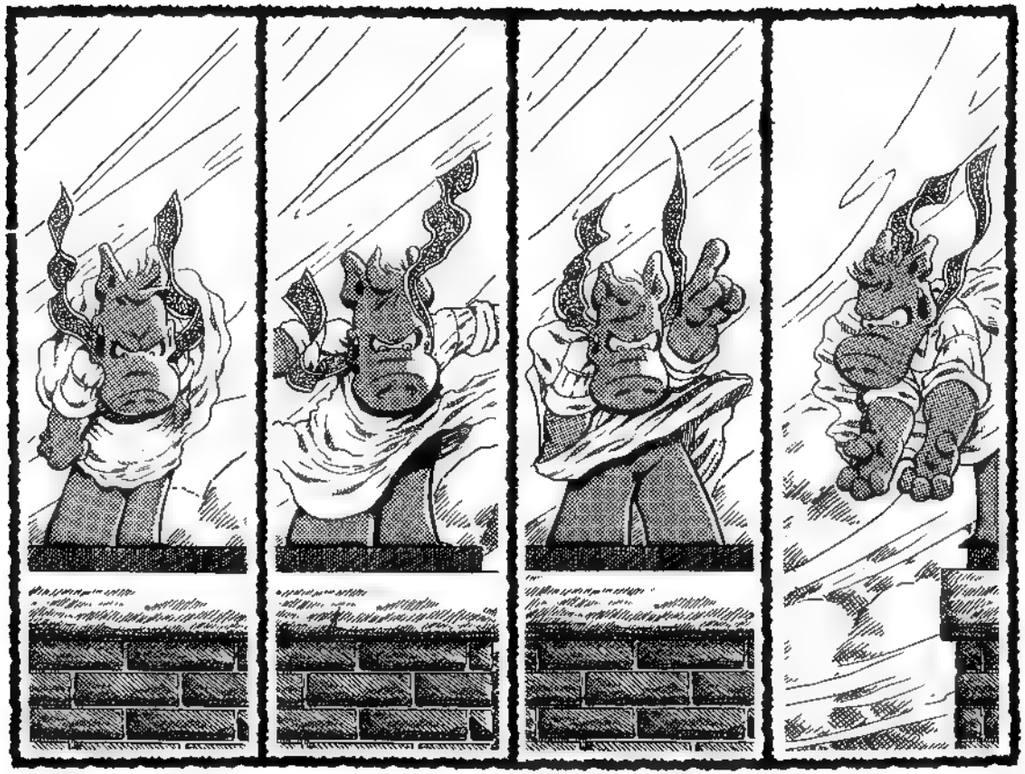


Most Holy: You must Most Holy made up this shooting not to hear humanity plead? It won't work you're wrong Most Holy & trying to use & threaten some that would not harm us & kidding Father you and Jesus a lot more until we are standing & going to be ushered to little piles of ashes So that what you want - Is it?

Most Holy: Most Holy knows what you're going to say. You're going to say, "But, Most Holy, we are poor and starving and wretched and we are better off dead."

This is true.

But what Most Holy wants to tell you is that Satan isn't destroying the world to be a nice guy. Satan is going to destroy the world because all of you are so worthless that he wants to show you what real suffering is.

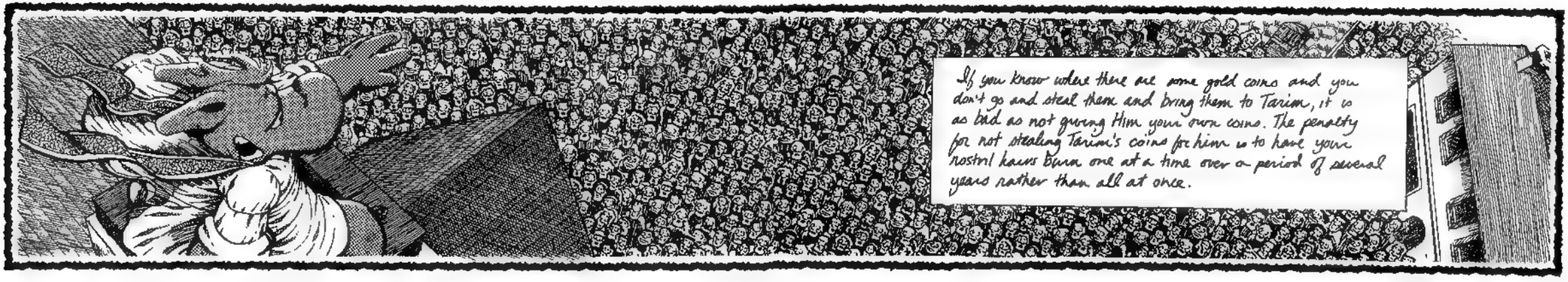


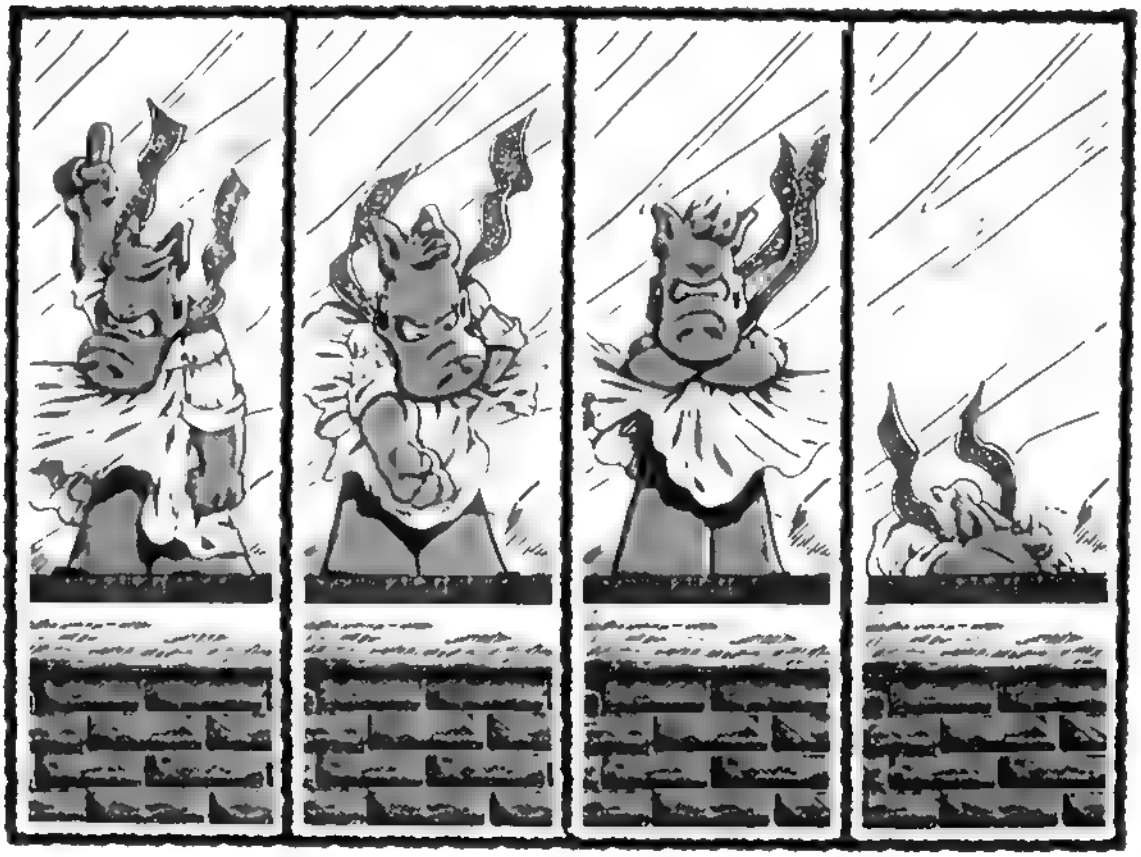
Most Holy: You think you're suffering now? Do you? Well suppose Most Holy were to tell you that when Tarim destroys the world by fire, the first thing to burn is everyone's nostril hair. That's right! Nostril hair!

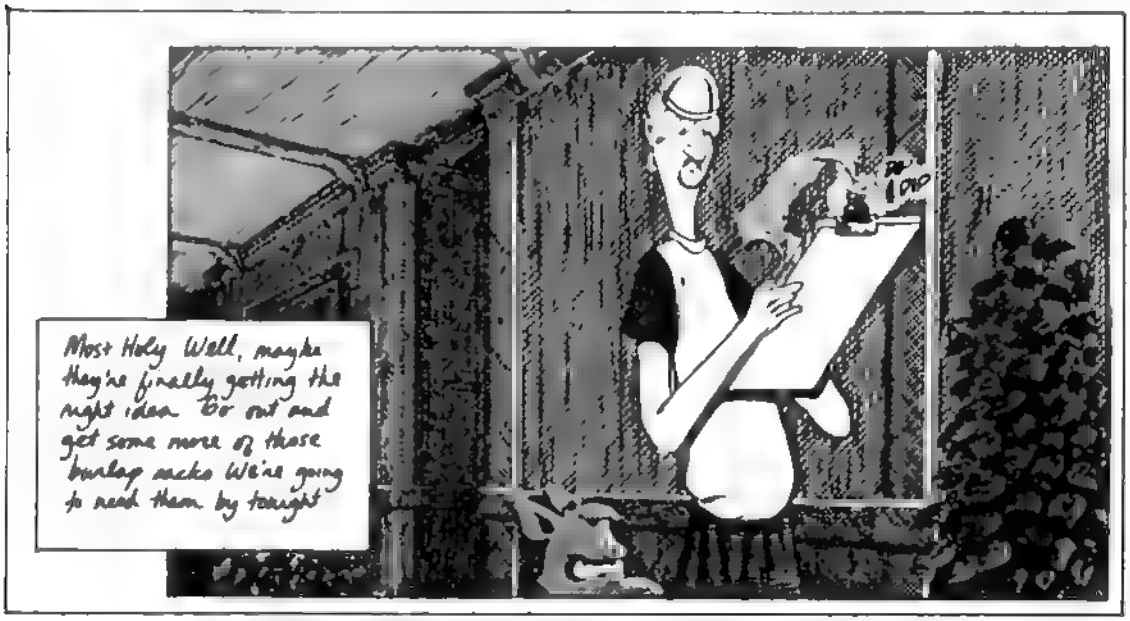
So when your sinuses start filling up with thick black smoke that smells like burning hair, and the smoke starts billowing out of your tear ducts you'll realize that you had things pretty easy up until then.

But then it will be too late. You'll come to Most Holy with your noses melted and your foreheads black, begging him to take your gold coins. And even before Most Holy can tell you, "It's too late; the whole thing is out of Most Holy's hands", Fwoosh, it will be your tongue's turn.

In the blinking of an eye, your molars will be hot enough to fry an egg. Before you can say "I wish I hadn't been so stupid", you'll be able to use your tonsils as a night-light. From there it will spread to your stomach. In minutes you'll be a walking liver and kidney stew.

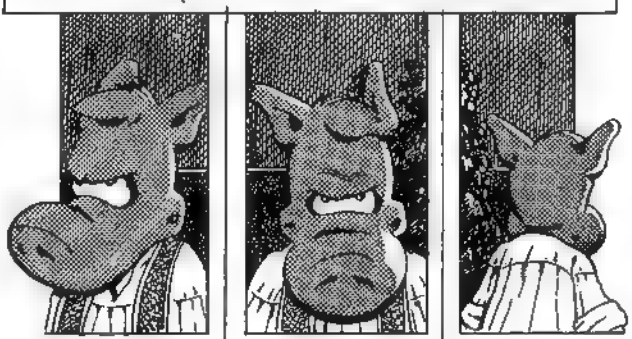

If you know where there are some gold coins and you don't go and steal them and bring them to Tarim, it is as bad as not giving Him your own coins. The penalty for not stealing Tarim's coins for him is to have your nostril hairs burn one at a time over a period of several years rather than all at once.


Most Holy You still have ten days to locate all of Most Holy's gold and bring it to him. Remember! The first people to ignite will be your children and any other relative that you like a lot.
Ten days Most Holy has spoken
Most Holy Did you get all that, Rocket?
Me Yup


Most Holy Well, maybe they're finally getting the right idea for out and get some more of those burlap sacks We're going to need them by tonight

Tomorrow, Most Holy is going to get even more than....

Most Holy: Look, Most Holy knows what you're doing here and you might as well go back to the Red Marches. Cerebus doesn't need any advisors or aides or assistants or cabinet ministers or Co-Popes or anything like that. So go away and...

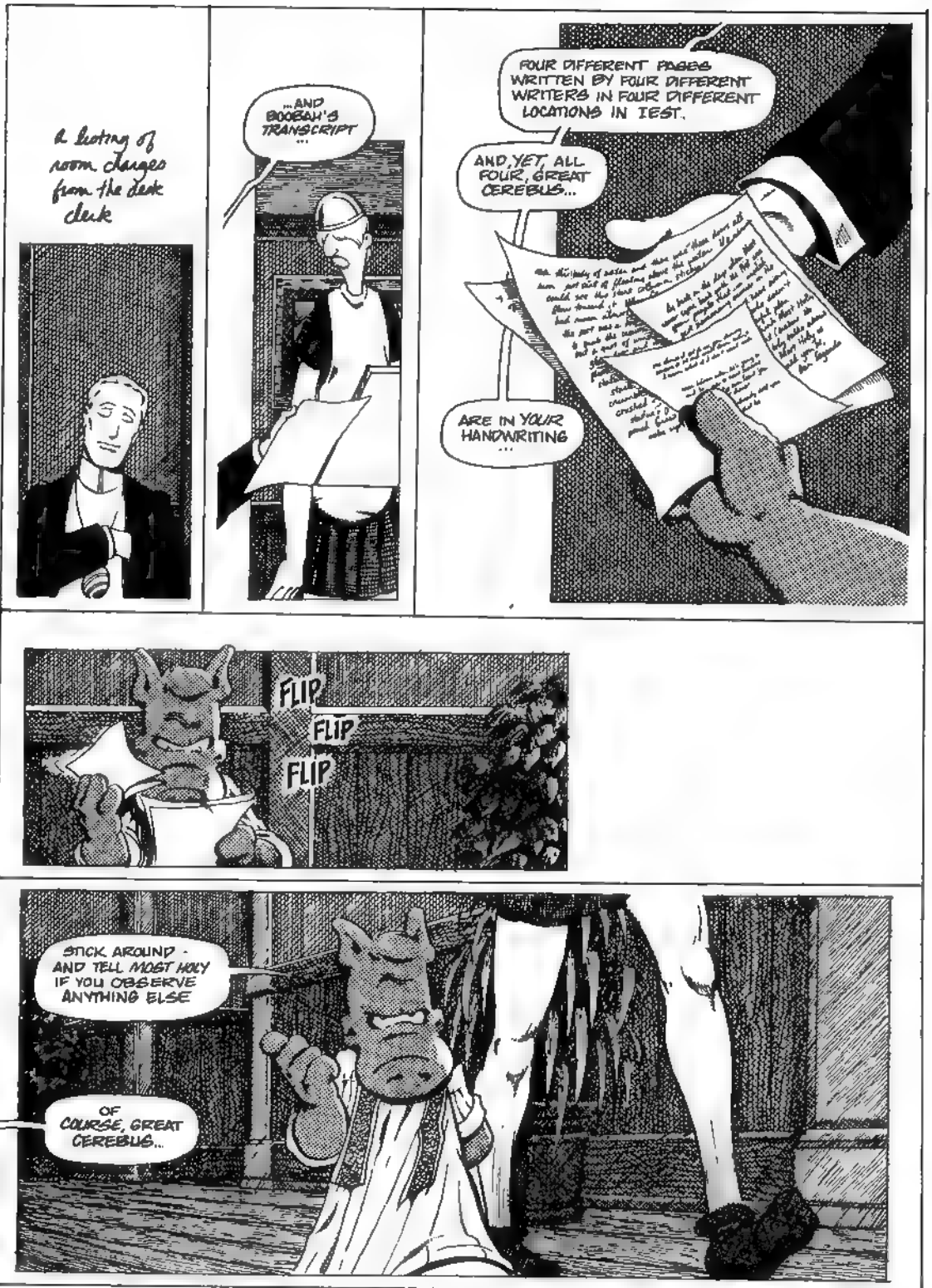


Muffins: Oh, but Great Cerebus. I'm not here to advise or assist you. No one could do that. I am simply here to observe the miracle as it occurs.

Yeah?

You observe anything yet?

I picked up a discarded letter written by a young girl in the Lower City. I also have a listing of my baggage from the carriage driver who brought me here.


A listing of room charges from the desk clerk
...AND BOOBAH'S TRANSCRIPT ...
FOUR DIFFERENT PAGES WRITTEN BY FOUR DIFFERENT WRITERS IN FOUR DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN TEXT.
AND, YET, ALL FOUR, GREAT CEREBUS...
ARE IN YOUR HANDWRITING ...
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
STICK AROUND - AND TELL MOST HOLY IF YOU OBSERVE ANYTHING ELSE
OF COURSE, GREAT CEREBUS...

NEXT: ANOTHER THING COMING

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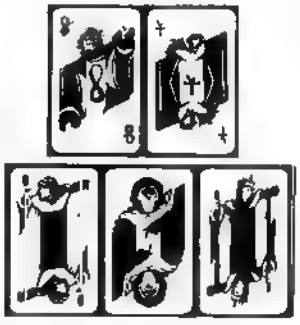

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A UNIQUE STORY

AAAR
WHILE EXPLORING THEIR NEW HOME, CAPT. GROK, SCIENCE OFFICER LIP, LT. AMPLE, AND OFFICER SNIKT HAVE FOUND THEMSELVES IN A VAGUELY DEFINED WISH ZONE. NOT SUPRISINGLY, THINGS HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF HAND...
SPACED
WISH ZONE PART TWO
RRRRRRR
AHA!
SNAP!

BY TOM SIAZER and JOHN WILLIAMS

©1983 TOM STAZER

THAT'S A STRANGE WISH!
FIRST THING THAT CAME TO MIND. I'M NEW AT THIS, YOU KNOW.
POOM!
MMRRMMFF!
WHOOPS! THANKS BARBARA.
KRESH!
...HEY!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING TO ME!
OKAY BUB.
NOW YOU MADE ME MAD. AND WHEN I GET MAD..
I GET ANGRY!

YOU WANT A FIGHT?
OKAY YOU GOT IT!
AARRGGGHH!
RRRRRRRRR
SSHPP
HEY! HEY! WHAT HAPPENED TO MY WISHES?
I WISHED AWAY YOUR WISHING POWER UNTIL YOU STOP THIS NONSENSE!
NOW SHE TELLS ME.
OKAY, LIP, I'M WISHING YOU BACK
THANKS BARBARA

HEY! DON'T LEAVE ME LIKE THIS! SOMEBODY WISH ME BACK!
OKAY, SNIKT, I'LL WISH YOUR POWERS BACK BUT CALM DOWN OKAY.
WHEW!
NOW LET'S TALK REASONABLY. THIS WISH ZONE MAY BE OUR TICKET BACK TO EARTH!
OR INEBRIA!!
AHHH, I JUST WISH WE'D HURRY UP AND GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!
SNI..
"LEAVING WISH ZONE"
I WONDER WHAT THAT MEANS.?
WISH I KNEW..
...END

SPACED appears in its own bi-monthly comic, available at direct sale outlets, or directly from the publisher: UNBRIDLED AMBITION, P.O. Box 500202, Houston, Tx. 77250-0202. $1.60 each plus $1.00 postage & handling.

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AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Everyone liked the all-photo letters page so much, I decided to try the same thing again. You may never read another Mike Bannon letter if this one goes over as well.

THE "GIVE GERHARD A LAST NAME" CONTEST INFO

As some of you may not know, Gerhard's parents were so poor (how poor were they?) well, they were so poor, they couldn't afford a last name for him. Now that he has a home here at Aardvark-Vanaheim, we know all of you Cerebus fans, kind-hearted souls that you are, would just love to help him out. Just think, a new last name for a swell guy who stays up until three in the morning drawing bricks. The winner will receive an original page from one of the stories currently appearing in Epic Magazine. The decision of the judge is final and the contest closes when we receive the winning entry.

ACMECON STORY-TELLING PANEL TO BE "SHOP-TALK" IN WILL EISNER QUARTERLY

Pictured above: the Epic editor and all-round nice guy, Archie Goodwin, and comic book legend-among-legends, Will Eisner. The story-telling panel went very well and according to Mr. Eisner, it will be featured as one of the series of "Shop-talk" pieces in his very excellent Will Eisner's Quarterly.

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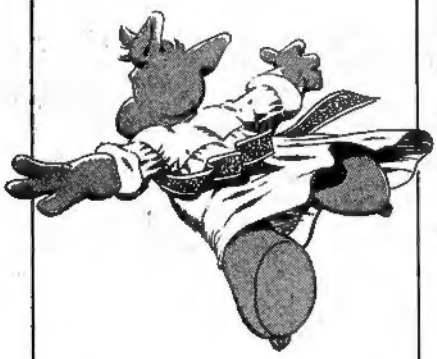
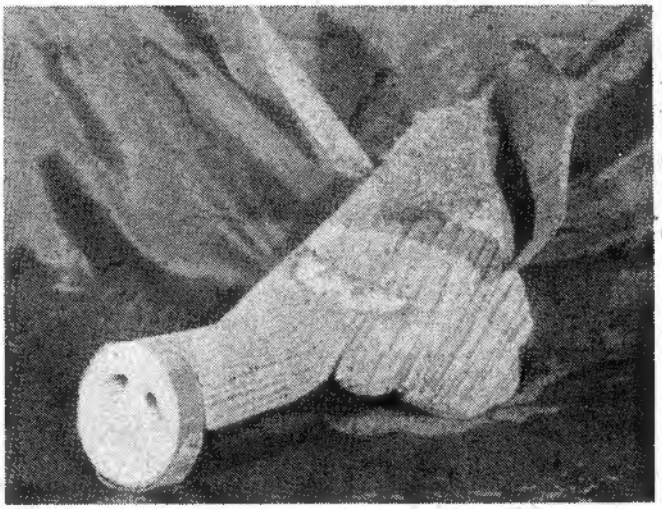


A-V IN 3D

This is a picture of Cerebus from "Cerebus Dreams II", the lead story in A-V in 3D, which will feature all of the Aardvark-Vanaheim characters. Coming in December. Watch for it.



100% NATURAL CEREBUS

"Natural Sculpture" by Mike Wick. According to Larry Southwick III who submitted the photo, Cerebus' face and nose are all from one piece of naturally-formed wood and bark, his ears are leaves from a local bush, his hair/fur is moss and his features inscribed with charcoal.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

DAVE SIM (only):

November 3rd
(Approx. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.)
COLLECTOR'S STOP
373 Richmond Road
Ottawa, Ontario

November 3rd
(Approx. 3 - 5 p.m.)
CAPITAL CITY CARDS
751 Bank Street
Ottawa, Ontario

November 4th
(10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
CAPITAL CON. I
Tom Brown Arena
141 Bayview Road
Ottawa, Ontario

November 23rd - 25th
THANKSGIVING DALLAS FANTASY FESTIVAL
Dallas, Texas

December 1st and 2nd
THE AUGUSTA MINI-CON
Terrace Plaza Hotel
919 Fifteenth St.
Augusta, GA.

A sketch of Cerebus as Mike Grell's Jon Sable-Freelance that I did for Norman Peeler in Charlotte, North Carolina with the agreement that he send a copy to Mike Grell and to me.

MEGATON MAN JOINS KITCHEN SINK LINE-UP!
IT'S GREAT BEING ON THE KITCHEN SINK TEAM!
SO! WHAT ARE YOUR SUPER-POWERS?
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SO MUCH FOR A HOUSE STYLE!

BOB BURDEN CON SKETCH

"Gotcher-nose, Dave" chortles a Bob Burden aardvark. Although billed as a souvenir of the Chicago Comic Con, Bob didn't give me this sketch until the Atlanta Con. I think he'd make a great "Flaming Carrot" villain -- Aardvark-Face.

SWORDS 6 NEW STORY

Part of a panel from "A Night on the Town", the new story Gerhard and I have done for Swords of Cerebus Volume 6. See story on page 3.

BIZARRE LETTER OF THE MONTH

Dearest Dave,

Each and every month there are two things that I await. One is Cerebus. The little aardvark certainly looks wonderful in white. I can't wait to see that papal gown splattered with scarlet stains from his many victims, just as my pure-as-milk skin has often been tinged with the life-giving madder dye of my prey, the river of vitality flowing past my eager lips, its salty-sweet flavor dancing on my tongue, alive with excitement, and slipping past, down my open throat, to satiate the hunger in my expectant belly. Some of the crimson cordial slides off my ruby lips and drips from my chin, coursing down my slender neck to the hollow above my collar bone, then racing through to...oh! Sorry Dave, I got a little carried away. I really like issue 65, especially the part about the molten lead.

Love and Hisses,

C.Lingus

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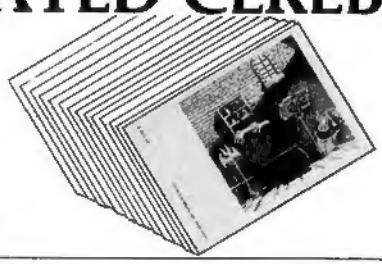

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